

B O R O U G H O F F A L M O U T H



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

J.A. HACKING, M.A.P.H.I.

Municipal Offices,

Falmouth.

Telephone Falmouth 312691

For the year ending

31st DECEMBER, 1973.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1973.

The MAYOR OF FALMOUTH: Councillor G.V. Davey

Chairman: Alderman S. Robinson.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor G.H. Symonds.

Alderman S.A. Hooper, B.F. Smales;

Councillors J.L. Jones, G.H. Symonds,
J.A.J. Tiddy, A. Wilkinson, Mrs. F.I. Wood

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

C.W.J. Hingston,
M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.T.M.& H.(Eng.), D.P.H.(Lond.)

Chief Public Health Inspector

J.A. HACKING, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

W.F. CLARK, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

P.A. LANGHAM, B.Sc., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks

Mrs. J. Boyce

Mrs. E.M. Symons



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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR 1973

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Because of local government reorganisation I am presenting this, my last Annual Report, in a very abbreviated form giving only statistics relating to the work of the Department during the last twelve months. It has been necessary to present the report in this way so that it will be available to Members of the Health Committee before the 1st April 1974.

As will be seen from the statistics, a great deal of time has been spent on improvement grant work to the detriment of other work. However, it should be remembered that many of the houses inspected would have been dealt with as Closing, Demolition or Clearance Orders if the premises had not been dealt with by way of improvement grant.

Great difficulties were experienced during the summer in the collection of refuse from the main street area as the police prevented the refuse collection vehicles from mounting the pavement to let other traffic pass by, and they refused to allow the vehicles to wait long enough to load the refuse if other traffic was being held up. The matter was resolved by the making of a temporary traffic order which continued for most of the summer and enabled refuse collection vehicles and no other vehicles, to load between 7.30 and 8.30 a.m. every day. The shortage of Heavy Goods Vehicle Drivers caused further difficulties during the summer as 14 drivers left the Council's employment during the summer and although 4 drivers were trained, all but 1 left the Council's employment within a matter of weeks to take positions with private firms who pay higher wages.

As this is my last Annual Report I would like to take this opportunity of thanking The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors and in particular the Chairman of the Health Committee, for all the assistance given to me and my staff during the years I have been Chief Public Health Inspector to the Falmouth Borough Council. I am also indebted to Mr. N.C. Slaughter, C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., Borough Surveyor; Mr. J.F. Holman, B.Sc., F.I.C.E., F.I.W.E., of South Cornwall Water Board; Mr. J.R.C. Finlayson, A.I.Hsg., Housing Manager; and to Mr. J. Cowperthwaite, Transport Inspector, for the information supplied regarding Sewerage, Water Supply, Housing and Transport respectively, also to Dr. C.W.J. Hingston for his advice and support, and to the staff for their loyal support and co-operation during the year and for their contribution to this report.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. HACKING

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS

Visits

Dwellings	116
Revisits	223
Houses in Multiple Occupation	54
Slum Clearance	50
Improvement Grants	273
Overcrowding	1
Qualification Certificates	11
Infectious Diseases	21
Disinfestation/Disinfection	110
Swimming Pools	29
Hairdressers	2
Council Houses	25
Other matters	129
TOTAL	<u>1044</u>

Complaints

The following complaints were received
and dealt with during the year:-

Obstructed drains and sewers	76
Unsatisfactory housing conditions	58
Defective drains	11
Overcrowding	2
Offensive accumulations	67
Keeping of animals	2
Noise	17
Offensive smells	23
Holiday accommodation	2
Insect pests	41
Other matters	11
TOTAL	<u>310</u>

Erection of Houses

109 private dwellings were erected during the year but no council houses were built.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Informal Notices complied with	20
Number of premises affected	25
Statutory Notices complied with	10
Number of premises affected	15
Court cases	1

Swimming Pools

Byelaws for the control of swimming pools open to the public were introduced in 1966 to ensure hygienic conditions in the public swimming pools (excluding schools) in the Borough. 29 visits were made and 104 tests carried out for chlorine content and pH value of the water.

Disinfestation

110 visits were made by public health inspectors to premises regarding disinfestation.

41 complaints were made to the department regarding insect pests, including cluster flies, fleas, wood lice and cockroaches and 35 premises were treated. In other cases complainants were advised on treatment.

In addition 11 wasps' nests were destroyed by the rodent operative including 5 on private land for which a charge was made.

As a precautionary measure 23 empty council houses were treated.

The treatment of the refuse tip and adjoining housing estate for cockroaches was put out to a private contractor.

RODENT CONTROL

324 premises were treated against rats and 103 against mice. Coumarin derivatives were the main poisoning agents used. Particulars of the work carried out by the Rodent Operative during the year are as follows:-

Complaints	263
Inspections	1749
Premises treated	427
Initial points laid ...	2016
Initial "takes"	1039

The biannual test baiting of sewers was carried out during the year, followed by two maintenance treatments. In all 238 manholes were baited and 19 initial "takes" were recorded.

43 visits were made to premises by public health inspectors regarding rodent infestation.

HOUSING ACTS

Housing Act, 1969.

National and local publicity regarding the introduction of the 75% grant in this area resulted in many enquiries from the owners of houses.

273 visits and interviews were carried out by public health inspectors (including 253 initial inspections to private houses) to ensure that premises were in good repair and substantially free from damp, following enquiries or applications.

During the year 131 grants totalling £194,597 were agreed to by the Council.

Overcrowding

1 visit was made regarding the overcrowding provisions of the Housing Act 1957.

Slum Clearance

During the year 5 premises were dealt with under Sections 16 or 17 of the Housing Act 1957, and 4 Closing Orders made. 4 families were rehoused. 4 undertakings not to relet were accepted. Offers of works to rehabilitate 4 previously closed premises were accepted and 3 Closing Orders were revoked following modernisation. One offer to rehabilitate a house in a confirmed Clearance Order was referred to the Department of the Environment.

Council Houses

25 visits were made to council houses at the request of the Borough Surveyor to ascertain obscure causes of dampness or to carry out a full inspection for the purpose of improvement. In the great majority of cases of dampness, condensation was the causative factor due to very high humidity in our mild winter.

Qualification Certificates

11 initial visits and revisits were made by public health inspectors regarding applications for Qualification Certificates.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Visits

Drainage general	467
Smoke tests (visits)	129
Number of smoke tests carried out	435
Water tests (visits)	245
Number of water tests carried out	670
Colour tests (visits)	15
No. of colour tests carried out	12
Choked drains and sewers	191
Cesspit/Gully Emptier	15

Total number of visits - 1062

Sewerage

Disposal of the whole of the sewage of the Borough is by means of sea outfalls at Middle Point, Gyllyngvase and Pennance Point. At four positions the sewage is raised to higher levels namely, North Parade, Prince of Wales' Pier, Dock & Railway Hotel, and the rear of Swanpool. Sewage ejectors are employed for this purpose.

The Falmouth Borough Council receives sewage from Penryn and from the village of Mabe into its main sewer to the south of Trescobeas Road whence it flows via the Swanvale valley trunk sewer to the works at Swanvale and thence to sea at Pennance Point.

The Council has let a Contract for improvements to the sewerage system in the western part of the Borough and work started in September 1973. It includes the abandonment of the sea outfall at Swanpool Point and the diversion of comminuted sewage from there to the Pennance Point outfall. Stand-by generators will be provided in 1974 at the Swanvale sewage works.

A Contract was completed in March 1973 for improvement of pumping facilities and comminution at Swanvale sewage tanks and the provision of a new valley sewer to improve conditions as far as Trescobeas Road. The sewage from Budock Water and Mawnan Smith is now discharged via tidal tanks at the Falmouth Borough Council's outfall at Pennance Point.

Cesspools

92 premises in the Borough are served by 67 cesspools or septic tanks. During the year they were emptied as required and this necessitated the removal of 781 loads.

Since the 1st October 1967, all cesspools have been allowed 26 loads and septic tanks one load removed free per annum. Caravan sites have 2 free loads per caravan or chalet. Any additional loads are charged for.

The work is carried out by two men manning a 1200 gallon cesspool and gully emptying vehicle which works an average of two days a week on cesspools and the other three on street gullies.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply for the Borough is administered by the South Cornwall Water Board.

During the period under review the water supplied to the Borough has been satisfactory in both quantity and quality. The 49 bacteriological samples taken have all proved to be satisfactory and no form of bacteriological contamination has been found within the system.

Regular flushing is carried out to guard against discolouration build-up but should this occur, particular investigation to the complaint is given.

There is one property in the Borough which has a private water supply and does not receive water from the Board's mains. No dwellings are supplied from standpipes.

The Board does not add fluoride to its supplies but analyses show that the naturally occurring fluoride content in the water supplied to the Borough is in the order of 0.2 ppm.

CAMPING AND CARAVAN SITES

Control of Moveable Dwellings

Number of complaints received - 1

Number of visits made - 23

There are 5 larger sites with accommodation for 186 caravans or chalets, 93 of which are residential. There is one site of 72 pitches used exclusively for tents. In addition there are 4 individual residential caravans and one individual holiday caravan.

All the sites have adequate sanitary conveniences, washing and bathing facilities and are provided with main water supply and dustbins.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Visits and Interviews

Interviews	25
Accidents	3
Offices	11
Shops	22
Catering Establishments	14
Revisits	38
TOTAL	<u>113</u>

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total no. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	4	69	11
Retail shops	7	154	22
Wholesale shops and warehouses	0	5	0
Catering establishments open to the public	3	42	14
Fuel storage depots	0	0	0
TOTAL	14	270	47

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>No. of Persons Employed</u>
Offices	531
Retail Shops	874
Wholesale Departments and Warehouses .	31
Catering Establishments open to public	236
Canteens	8
Fuel Storage Depots	0
TOTAL	<u>1,680</u>

Total Males - 609
Total Females - 1,071

Contraventions of the Act

Alterations and improvements were completed on 37 premises and 35 informal notices were served for the following contraventions of the section shown:-

<u>Section</u>	<u>Regarding</u>	<u>No.</u>
5	Overcrowding	1
6	Temperature	12
7	Ventilation	6
8	Lighting	2
9	Sanitary conveniences	6
10	Washing facilities	4
11	Supply of drinking water	2
16	Floors, passages and stairs	2
24	First Aid provisions	9
	Other matters	9

Accidents

Six accidents were reported during the year, none serious, and no action was necessary to prevent recurrence.

SHOPS ACT

Visits - 33

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Shops Act 1950, and during the year Orders were made under Section 41 and 51 with respect to opening hours and Sunday Trading.

A poll was taken in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 and from the 23rd September 1973, all classes of shops were exempted from closing early on one day in each week.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Visits and Interviews

Food premises, including licensed premises, hotels etc.	232
Stalls, mobile shops and delivery vehicles	11
Unsound food	168
Food complaints	69
Cream sampling	32
Food sampling	12
Food poisoning	19
TOTAL	<u>543</u>

Complaints and Inspections

24 complaints were made regarding food. In 5 cases the Council decided that court action should be taken resulting in total fines of £75 and £15 costs. 11 warning letters were sent to retailing and supplying firms. In the remaining cases no action was taken other than a visit for investigation, because the evidence was unsatisfactory or the complainant refused to attend court.

There are 494 food premises in the Borough including hotels and guest houses. Improvements were carried out to 20 premises.

No attempt is made to keep separate records of the various trades involved since many now represent several trades. All premises comply with relevant legislation and have wash hand basins, sinks or other facilities.

11 visits to food delivery vehicles were made and owners informed of any contraventions. Officers of nearby authorities were kept informed of any action against vehicles garaged in their area.

Condemned Food

93 certificates were issued in connection with unsound food, the total amount being 1 ton 10 cwts 62 lbs.

All this food was collected by the Council and buried at the controlled refuse tip.

Sampling

Cream

21 samples of the various edible creams were submitted to the laboratory, all were satisfactory. This shows the value of a unified effort by all the health authorities in the County with the co-operation of the Public Health Laboratory.

Crab Meat

8 satisfactory samples of crab meat were taken.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

It was reported by H.M. Factories Inspector that a possible defect existed at factory premises and on inspection it was revealed that the sanitary convenience was defective and this was remedied after informal notice.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	7	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	-	-	-
TOTAL	67	7	-	-

2. Number of cases in which defects were found - 1

OUTWORK

1 visit was made to outworkers' premises.

There was one outworker in the August list required by Section 133(1)(c) and this person was engaged in the making etc. of Wearing Apparel.

No cases of default, notices served or prosecutions under Sections 133 and 134 were recorded in 1973.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967.

The Council's decision in 1970 that official action must be taken on every occasion that vehicles were abandoned meant that quite an amount of correspondence and time was spent dealing with the 24 vehicles found. Three were removed by the local authority and disposed of for scrap and the remainder removed by their owners. 132 visits were made regarding abandoned vehicles.

The Council provided a weekly household refuse collection, a free bulky household refuse collection service, a garden refuse collection service at a small charge and permitted free use of the Council's tip to residents. Publicity was given to the fines which could be imposed on litter dumpers.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN THE BOROUGH

<u>Site</u>	<u>Accommodation</u> <u>Females</u>	<u>Accommodation</u> <u>Males</u>
Greenbank Gardens	1 W.C.	1 W.C. 2 Urinal Stalls
*Prince of Wales Pier	7 W.Cs	4 W.Cs 9 Urinal Stalls
Webber Street	5 W.Cs	Nil Nil
The Moor	Nil	3 W.Cs 14 Urinal Stalls
Quarry Car Park	2 W.Cs	1 W.C. 3 Urinal Stalls
Custom House Quay	5 W.Cs	2 W.Cs 5 Urinal Stalls
*Grove Place	2 W.Cs	1 W.C. 5 Urinal Stalls
Cliff Road	2 W.Cs	1 W.C. 2 Urinal Stalls
*Gyllyngvase Beach	10 W.Cs	4 W.Cs 10 Urinal Stalls
Cemetery	1 W.C.	1 W.C. 3 Urinal Stalls
Swanpool Beach	3 W.Cs	2 W.Cs 1 Urinal Stall
Kimberley Park	1 W.C.	1 W.C. 2 Urinal Stalls
*Gyllyngdune Gardens	4 W.Cs	1 W.C. 3 Urinal Stalls
Recreation Ground	4 W.Cs	2 W.Cs 6 Urinal Stalls
Maenporth Beach	3 W.Cs	2 W.Cs 4 Urinal Stalls
Castle Beach	3 W.Cs	2 W.Cs 4 Urinal Stalls
The Hornwork (Portable)	3 W.Cs	1 W.C. 3 Urinal Stalls
Church St. Car Park (Portable)	3 W.Cs	1 W.C. 3 Urinal Stalls

*Watercloset available for disabled persons.

13 complaints were received during the year mostly about the condition of the conveniences which are not fully manned. 173 inspections were made by supervisory staff.

Late in the year all conveniences were made free when the coin locks were removed.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A daily early morning kerbside bin collection operates in the town centre whilst the rest of the town, using sacks, is collected weekly. The police using emergency powers for the summer period, prohibited all traffic except for refuse vehicles in the main streets of the town between the hours of 7.30 and 8.15 a.m. This was such a success that it is hoped a permanent arrangement can be made. 600,000 sacks were used for refuse collection.

Three refuse collection vehicles are in regular use staffed by a driver and three loaders. Another vehicle is kept as a "reserve". The application of Plating and Testing Regulations to the refuse vehicles increased the number of days that the vehicles were not available. Local garages again co-operated by maintaining the Saturday morning servicing ensuring that the vehicles were always available on weekdays.

The free monthly collection of bulky household items which commenced in April 1969, was very successful and was used by 311 persons.

The garden refuse collection service at 5p per sackful was used by many people in the Borough who purchased a total of 1,630 sacks for this purpose. The trade refuse charge remained at 1p per bin removed.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The refuse in the Boroughs of Penryn and Falmouth is disposed of by controlled tipping at the Council's refuse tip at Trescobeas. At the present rate of tipping the site will last until at least 1975, by which time a new tip should be available some nine miles away and will be used by the four authorities comprising the new Carrick District. The responsibility for refuse disposal will, of course, have been transferred to the County Council by that time but the County Council have arranged for the District Councils to be responsible for refuse disposal for the time being.

Loads Deposited at Refuse Tip

Refuse Vehicles

S & D Dual Tip (25 cu.yds.)	RRO 867 D (Reserve)		238
S & D Dual Tip (37 cu.yds.)	YAF 214 J		593
S & D Dual Tip (37 cu.yds.)	NRL 352 F		662
S & D Dual Tip (37 cu.yds.)	RCV 315 G		674
Surveyor's Department (Litter, roadworks, housing maintenance, parks and gardens) ...			980

Permission was granted for persons to dump rubbish on the tip amounting to:-

122 lorry loads

84 van loads

66 car loads

Approximately 5,000 cu.yds. of cover has been accepted at the refuse tip.

SUMMARY OF ALL VISITS AND INTERVIEWS
BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Public Health and Housing Acts	1085
Drainage and Sewage Disposal	1047
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	119
Food	539
Rodent Control	43
Caravan and Camping Sites	23
Shops Acts	33
Factories Act	8
Civic Amenities Act	132
Public Conveniences	173
Refuse Collection	173
Refuse Disposal	149
Other miscellaneous visits and interviews	1191
including:-	
Clean Air Act	8
Pet Animals Act	5
"No access" visits	224
Deposited plans	11
Miscellaneous	306
Medical Officer of Health	12
Chairman	12
Owners	117
Builders	224
Architects	64
Solicitors	17
Representatives	23
Depots	89
Water Samples	14
Industrial Tribunal	5
Traffic Act (Safety Helmets)	5
Local Government	
Reorganisation ...	55
TOTAL	<u>4715</u>

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Attendance at Council and Committee Meetings	39
Local Land Charges Supplementary Enquiries	579
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts and Housing Acts Enquiries	40
Deposited plans examined	372
Informal Notices served	113
Statutory Notices served	38

FALMOUTH BOROUGH

Statistics 1973

(1972 figures in brackets)

Area in acres	1,893
Estimated population, 1973	17,960 (17,410)
Families on waiting list for houses	360 (305)
Rainfall, 1973 (inches)	39.4 (47.4)
Sunshine, 1973 (hours)	1512.5 (1575.3)

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